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State Budget Agreement Reached

Education and roads top priority; no new taxes on Michigan families

LANSING – Republican lawmakers and the governor reached an agreement yesterday on a state budget that places heavy emphasis on education and roads – without raising any new taxes on Michigan families, Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, announced today.

“This budget reflects the priorities of the Republican legislature, and maintains that education will always be priority number one,” Gilbert said. “Ensuring the preservation of the Merit Award Scholarship and the \$6,700 per-pupil allowance is critical to guaranteeing that our students are rewarded and receive the best education available.”

Among the provisions hammered out by legislative leaders and the governor include restoring 17 of the 34 deferred road projects, including M-24 between I-69 and Pratt Road in Lapeer County. Over the past few months, Sen. Gilbert worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and commerce concerns of Lapeer residents were addressed.

“I am pleased the legislature and administration were able to come together on terms that restored several of the road projects, especially M-24 in Lapeer County,” Gilbert, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee said. “Lapeer residents can rest assured that their safety and commerce concerns over M-24 have been alleviated.”

While preserving the Merit Award, per-pupil funding and keeping scheduled road projects on track were vital, it bears tremendous importance to note that these issues were accomplished without any new taxes on Lapeer and St. Clair County families.

“A fiscally responsible budget with no new taxes was critical, and I am pleased this goal was reached in a cooperative fashion for Michigan families,” Gilbert said.